

REMARKS

Claims 17-37 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 38-71 have been added. The limitations recited in the claims cover subject matter disclosed in the present application as originally filed and in the earlier-filed applications on which it is based. Given their scope and the subject matter they cover, it is believed that claims 38-71 will not require any additional or further searches of prior art nor do they introduce any new issues for consideration.

I. Claim Rejections: Claims 17-37 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 17-37 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,323,648 to *Belt et al* ("648 patent"). Specifically, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that:

Belt discloses a peripheral vascular array for Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Applicant's attention is directed to Fig. 1 and the corresponding description. Interface 10 allows for the connection of the NMR scanner to an imaging coil array 10 in a number of combinations or different operating modes. Note that there are at least two receiving circuits and that the number of coils is greater than the number of receiving circuits by at least one.

Belt meets all the limitations of the claims at issue.

In the newly added claims, Applicant has incorporated limitations that are supported not only by the present application as originally filed but also by the earlier-filed applications on which the present application is based. Applicant believes that the '648 patent does not anticipate his claims. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is ready to be allowed.

II. Disposition of Canceled Claims

As a sidenote, Applicant informs the Examiner that the assignee of the present application, Medrad, Inc., is also the assignee of the

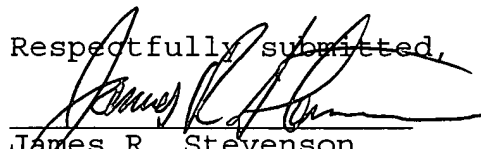
'648 patent, the reference upon which the rejection of claims 17-37 was based. The application from which the '648 patent issued spawned four (4) divisional applications, all of which still pending before the Patent Office. Claims 17-37 of the present application, which have been canceled by this *Response and Amendment*, shall be added in whole or in part to one of those four divisional applications.

CONCLUSION

Claims 17-37 have been canceled and claims 38-71 added. Prior to this *Response and Amendment*, the application contained a total of twenty-one claims, i.e., two independent claims and nineteen dependent claims. Upon the entry of this *Response and Amendment*, the application will contain thirty-four (34) claims total: four (4) independent claims and thirty (30) dependent claims.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections set forth in the *Office Action* dated November 18, 2002, and to consider the claims proposed herein. Applicant believes that the subject matter of those claims is patentably distinct from that disclosed in the '648 patent. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this *Response and Amendment*, he is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


James R. Stevenson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,755

Medrad, Inc.
One Medrad Drive
Indianola, PA 15051-0780
TELEPHONE: (412) 767-2400 ext. 3280
FACSIMILE: (412) 767-8899